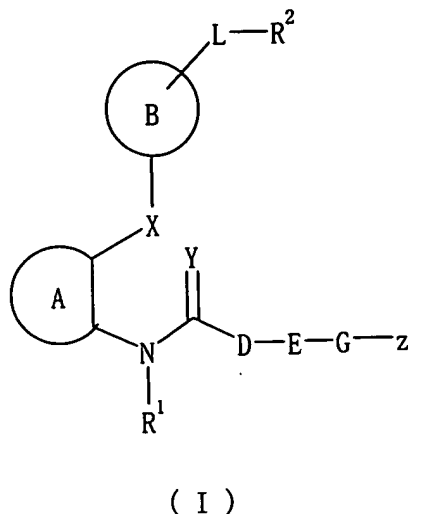
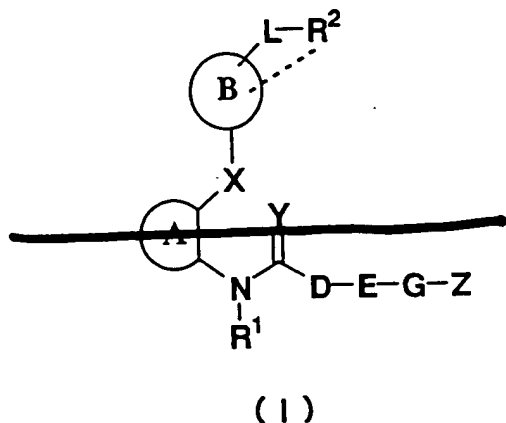


1. (Currently Amended) A Compound of the following formula, or a salt thereof:



wherein Ring A represents an optionally-substituted homocyclic aromatic ring;

Ring B represents an optionally-substituted cyclic hydrocarbon group benzene or cycloalkane ring;

Z represents an optionally-substituted cyclic group;

R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group, or an acyl group;

R² represents an optionally-substituted amino group;

D ~~represents~~ is an optionally substituted divalent hydrocarbon C₁₋₆ alkylene group;

E represents -CON(R^a)-

wherein R^a represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon C₁₋₆ alkyl group;

G represents an optionally substituted divalent hydrocarbon C₁₋₆ alkylene group;

L represents (1) a chemical bond or (2) a divalent hydrocarbon group optionally having from

1 to 5 substituents selected from;

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- (i) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group,
- (ii) a halogeno-C₁₋₆ alkyl group,
- (iii) a phenyl group,
- (iv) a benzyl group,
- (v) an optionally-substituted amino group,
- (vi) an optionally-substituted hydroxy group, and
- (vii) a carbamoyl or thiocarbamoyl group optionally substituted by:

- <1> a C₁₋₆ alkyl group,
- <2> an optionally-substituted phenyl group, or
- <3> an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group,

and optionally interrupted by -O- or -S-;

X represents an oxygen atom, or an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom, ~~an optionally-substituted nitrogen atom, or an optionally-substituted divalent hydrocarbon group; and~~

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

~~.... means that R² may be bonded to the atom on Ring B to form a ring.~~

2. (Original) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein L is an alkylene group optionally interrupted by -O- and optionally substituted by a C₁₋₆ alkyl group.
3. (Original) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein L is a C₁₋₆ alkylene group.
4. (Original) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R² is (1) an unsubstituted amino group, (2) a piperidyl group, or (3) an amino group optionally having one or two

substituents selected from (i) a benzyl group, (ii) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group optionally substituted by an amino or phenyl group, (iii) a (mono- or di-C₁₋₆ alkyl)-carbamoyl or -thiocarbamoyl group, (iv) a C₁₋₆ alkoxy-carbonyl group, (v) a C₁₋₆ alkyl-sulfonyl group, (vi) a piperidylcarbonyl group, and (vii) a C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by a halogen atom or an amino group.

5. (Original) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R² is an unsubstituted amino group.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein A is an optionally-substituted benzene ~~or pyridine~~ ring.

7. (Original) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein B is an optionally-substituted benzene ring.

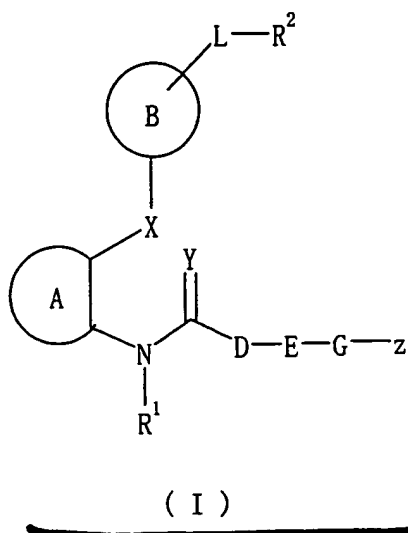
8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein X is an oxygen atom.

Claims 10-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein Y is two hydrogen atoms, and R¹ is an acyl group, ~~and Ring B along with R² does not form a nitrogen-containing hetero ring.~~

14. (Currently Amended) A Compound ~~as claimed in claim 1,~~ of the following formula, or a salt thereof



wherein Ring A is an optionally-substituted benzene ~~or pyridine~~ ring;

Ring B is a benzene or cyclohexane ring optionally substituted by a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group, ~~or is a tetrahydroisoquinoline or isoindoline ring formed along with R² bonded thereto;~~

Z is a C₆₋₁₄ aryl, C₃₋₁₀ cycloalkyl, piperidyl, thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, indanyl or indolyl group optionally having from 1 to 3 substituents selected from a halogen atom, a formyl group, a halogeno-C₁₋₆ alkyl group, a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group, a C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbonyl group, an oxo group and a pyrrolidinyl group;

D is a C₁₋₆ alkylene group;

G is a C₁₋₆ alkylene group optionally having a phenylene group and optionally substituted by a phenyl group;

R¹ is (a) a hydrogen atom, (b) a C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₆₋₁₄ aryl or C₇₋₁₄ aralkyl group optionally substituted by substituent(s) selected from

- (1) a halogen atom,
- (2) a nitro group,
- (3) an amino group optionally substituted by one or two substituents selected from a C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbonyl group, a C₆₋₁₄ aryl-carbonyl group, a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, a C₁₋₆ alkyloxy-carbonyl group, a C₇₋₁₄ aralkyloxy-carbonyl group, a C₁₋₆ alkyl-sulfonyl group and a C₆₋₁₄ aryl-sulfonyl group,
- (4) (i) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group optionally substituted by a hydroxy group, a C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbonyl group, a C₆₋₁₄ aryl-carbonyl group, a carboxyl group or a C₁₋₆ alkoxy-carbonyl group, (ii) a phenyl group optionally substituted by a hydroxy group, (iii) a benzoyl group, or (iv) a hydroxy group optionally substituted by a mono- or di-C₁₋₆ alkylamino-carbonyl group,
- (5) a C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl group,
- (6) a phenyl group optionally substituted by a hydroxy group or a halogeno-C₁₋₆ alkyl group, and
- (7) a thienyl group, a furyl group, a thiazolyl group, an indanyl group, an indolyl or a benzyloxycarbonylpiperidyl group, or (c) an acyl group;

R² is (1) an unsubstituted amino group, (2) a piperidyl group, or (3) an amino group optionally having one or two substituents selected from

- (i) a benzyl group,
- (ii) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group optionally substituted by an amino or phenyl group,
- (iii) a mono- or di-C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbamoyl or -thiocarbamoyl group,
- (iv) a C₁₋₆ alkoxy-carbonyl group,

- (v) a C₁₋₆ alkyl-sulfonyl group,
- (vi) a piperidylcarbonyl group, and
- (vii) a C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by a halogen atom or an amino group;

X represents an oxygen atom or an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom; and

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

E is -CON(R^a)-

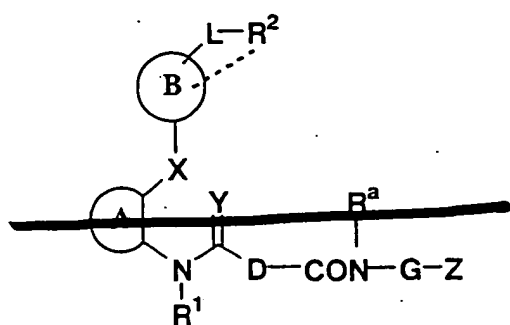
wherein R^a is a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₆ alkyl group; and

L is a C₁₋₆ alkylene group optionally interrupted by -O- and optionally substituted by a C₁₋₆ alkyl group.

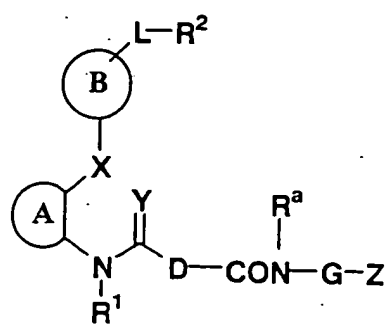
15. (Currently Amended) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein Z is a phenyl group optionally substituted by a halogen atom; D is a C₁₋₆ alkylene group; G is a C₁₋₆ alkylene group; R¹ is (a) a C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₇₋₁₄ aralkyl group optionally substituted by substituent(s) selected from (1) a hydroxy group, (2) a phenyl group, (3) a thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, indanyl, indolyl or benzyloxycarbonylpiperidyl group, and (4) an amino group optionally substituted by a C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbonyl, C₆₋₁₄ aryl-carbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl-sulfonyl or C₆₋₁₄ aryl-sulfonyl group, or (b) an acyl group; R² is an unsubstituted amino group; ~~E is -CON(R^a)-~~; L is a C₁₋₆ alkylene group; and Y is two hydrogen atoms.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a compound of a formula (I-a):

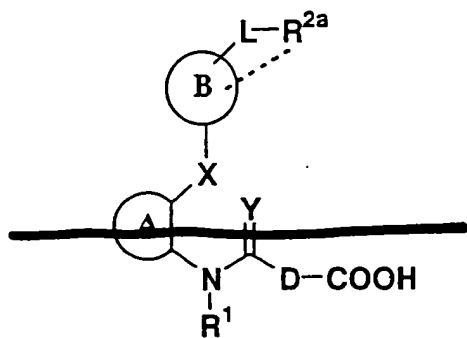


(I-a)

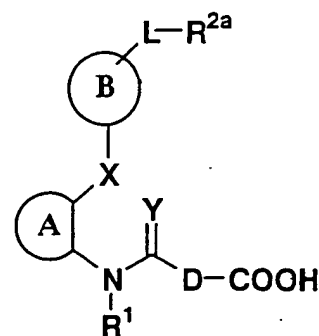


(I-a)

wherein the symbols have the same meanings as in claim 1, or a salt thereof, which comprises reacting a compound of a formula (IIa):

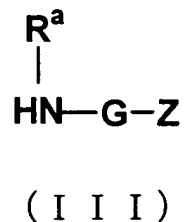


(IIa)

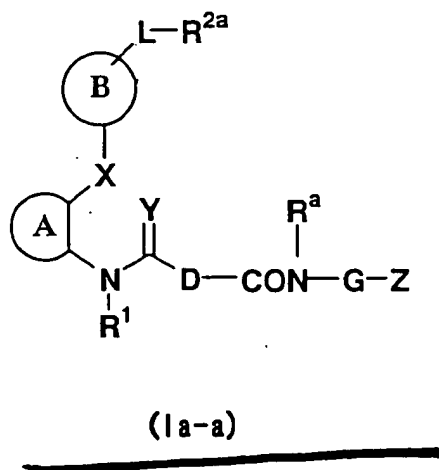
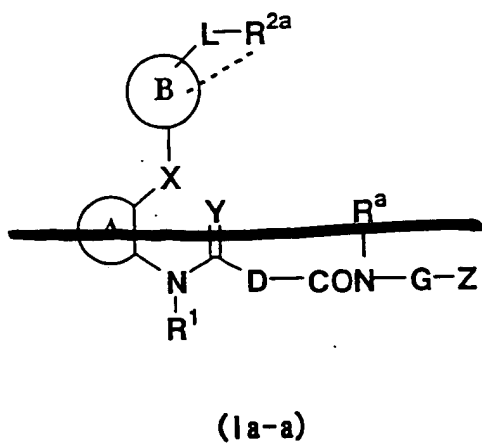


(IIa)

wherein R^{2a} represents an optionally-protected, optionally-substituted amino group; and the other symbols have the same meanings as in claim 1, or its reactive derivative or salt with a compound of a formula (III):



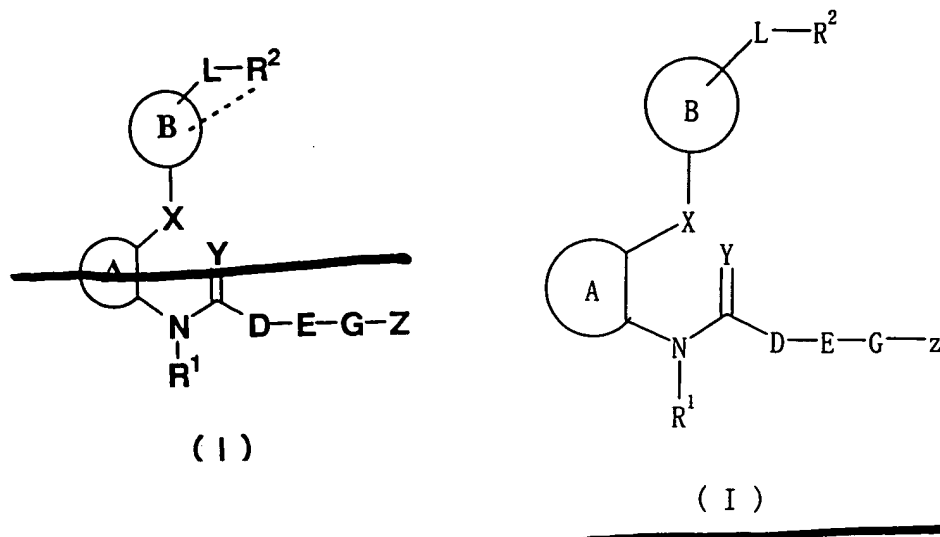
wherein the symbols have the same meanings as in claim 1, or its salt to give a compound of a formula (Ia-a):



wherein the symbols have the same meanings as above, or its salt, optionally followed by de-protecting it.

18. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

a compound of the following formula, or a salt thereof:



wherein Ring A represents an optionally-substituted homocyclic aromatic ring;

Ring B represents an optionally-substituted ~~cyclic hydrocarbon group~~ benzene or cycloalkane ring;

Z represents an optionally-substituted cyclic group;

R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group, or an acyl group;

R² represents an optionally-substituted amino group;

D ~~represents is~~ is an optionally substituted ~~divalent hydrocarbon~~ C₁₋₆ alkylene group;

E represents -CON(R^a)-

wherein R^a represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally-substituted

~~hydrocarbon~~ C₁₋₆ alkyl group;

G represents an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkylene ~~divalent hydrocarbon~~ group;

L represents (1) a chemical bond or (2) a divalent hydrocarbon group optionally

having from 1 to 5 substituents selected from;

(i) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group,

(ii) a halogeno-C₁₋₆ alkyl group,

(iii) a phenyl group,

(iv) a benzyl group,

(v) an optionally-substituted amino group,

(vi) an optionally-substituted hydroxy group, and

(vii) a carbamoyl or thiocarbamoyl group optionally substituted by:

<1> a C₁₋₆ alkyl group,

<2> an optionally-substituted phenyl group, or

<3> an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group,

and optionally interrupted by -O- or -S-;

X represents an oxygen atom, or an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom, ~~an optionally-~~

~~substituted nitrogen atom, or an optionally-substituted divalent~~

~~hydrocarbon group; and~~

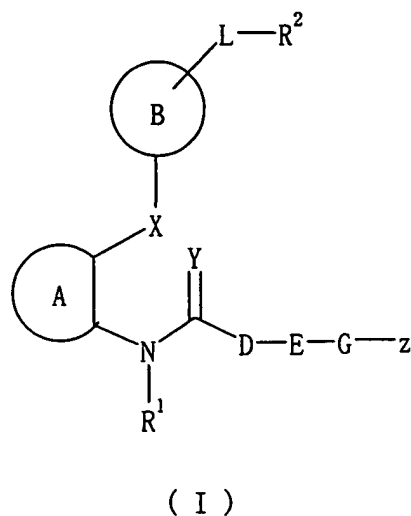
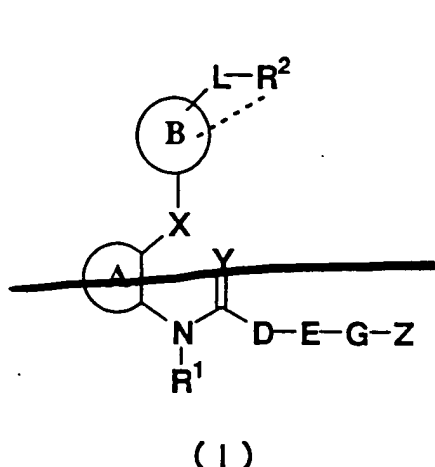
Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

~~.... means that R² may be bonded to the atom on Ring B to form a ring~~

and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 19 and 20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method for treating diabetes, obesity, complications of diabetes, or intractable diarrhea comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of the following formula or a salt thereof



wherein Ring A represents an optionally-substituted homocyclic aromatic ring;

Ring B represents an optionally-substituted ~~cyclic hydrocarbon group~~ benzene or cycloalkane ring;

Z represents an optionally-substituted cyclic group;

R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group, or an acyl group;

R² represents an optionally-substituted amino group;

D ~~is represents~~ an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkylene ~~divalent hydrocarbon~~ group;

E represents -CON(R^a)-

wherein R^a represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon C₁₋₆ alkyl group;

G represents an optionally substituted ~~divalent hydrocarbon~~ C₁₋₆ alkylene group;

L represents (1) a chemical bond or (2) a divalent hydrocarbon group optionally

having from 1 to 5 substituents selected from;

(i) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group,

(ii) a halogeno-C₁₋₆ alkyl group,

(iii) a phenyl group,

(iv) a benzyl group,

(v) an optionally-substituted amino group,

(vi) an optionally-substituted hydroxy group, and

(vii) a carbamoyl or thiocarbamoyl group optionally substituted by:

<1> a C₁₋₆ alkyl group,

<2> an optionally-substituted phenyl group, or

<3> an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group,

and optionally interrupted by -O- or -S-;

X represents an oxygen atom, or an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom, ~~an optionally-~~

~~substituted nitrogen atom, or an optionally-substituted divalent~~

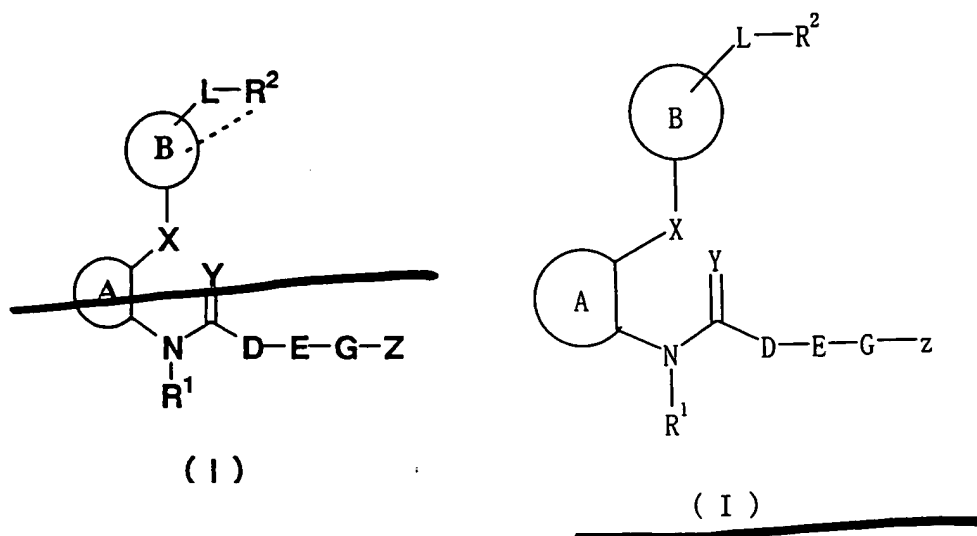
~~hydrocarbon group; and~~

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

~~.... means that R² may be bonded to the atom on Ring B to form a ring~~

to a mammal in need thereof.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~regulating~~ agonizing the somatostatin receptor ~~function~~, which comprises administering a compound of a formula (I):



wherein Ring A represents an optionally-substituted homocyclic aromatic ring;

Ring B represents an optionally-substituted ~~cyclic hydrocarbon group~~ benzene or cycloalkane ring;

Z represents an optionally-substituted cyclic group;

R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group, or an acyl group;

R² represents an optionally-substituted amino group;

D ~~is represents~~ an optionally substituted ~~divalent hydrocarbon~~ C₁₋₆ alkylene group;

E represents -CON(R^a)-

wherein R^a represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally-substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl hydrocarbon group;

G represents an optionally substituted ~~divalent hydrocarbon~~ C₁₋₆ alkylene group;

L represents (1) a chemical bond or (2) a divalent hydrocarbon group optionally having from 1 to 5 substituents selected from;

- (i) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group,
- (ii) a halogeno-C₁₋₆ alkyl group,
- (iii) a phenyl group,
- (iv) a benzyl group,
- (v) an optionally-substituted amino group,
- (vi) an optionally-substituted hydroxy group, and
- (vii) a carbamoyl or thiocarbamoyl group optionally substituted by:

- <1> a C₁₋₆ alkyl group,
 - <2> an optionally-substituted phenyl group, or
 - <3> an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group,
- and optionally interrupted by -O- or -S-;

X represents an oxygen atom, or an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom, ~~an optionally-substituted nitrogen atom, or an optionally-substituted divalent hydrocarbon group; and~~

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

~~... means that R² may be bonded to the atom on Ring B to form a ring,~~ or its salt to a mammal in need thereof.

23. (Cancelled)